

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

a₂ 1. (Once Amended) A method for separating metal and inorganic particles from a metal-inorganic particle composite material generated because of dispersion of inorganic particles in a base metal, comprising the steps of:

heating said metal-inorganic particle composite material into a melt;
throwing flux into said melt and bringing said flux into contact with said melt sufficiently;

leaving said melt at rest to separate said melt into an upper layer containing said inorganic particles and a lower layer composed of said metal; and
recovering said upper layer and said lower layer individually.

Please add the following new claims:

a₃ 3. (New) The method for separating metal and inorganic particles from a metal-inorganic particle composite material according to claim 1, wherein said upper layer is recovered by dissolving said flux in a solvent.

4. (New) The method for separating metal and inorganic particles from a metal-inorganic particle composite material according to claim 1, wherein said upper layer is recovered by baking said flux.
